

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected numerous claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended these claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections; 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections; Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has rejected various claims, but indicated that claims 2, 7, 9, 12, 15-20, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 with the limitations of claim 2. Claims 1-10 and 21-27 depend from claim 1, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

New claim 41 includes the limitations of claim 1 before amendment, together with the limitations of claim 7. Claims 11-20 depend from claim 41, and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests an allowance of the patent application.

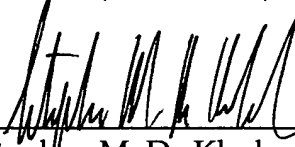
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Klerk at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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